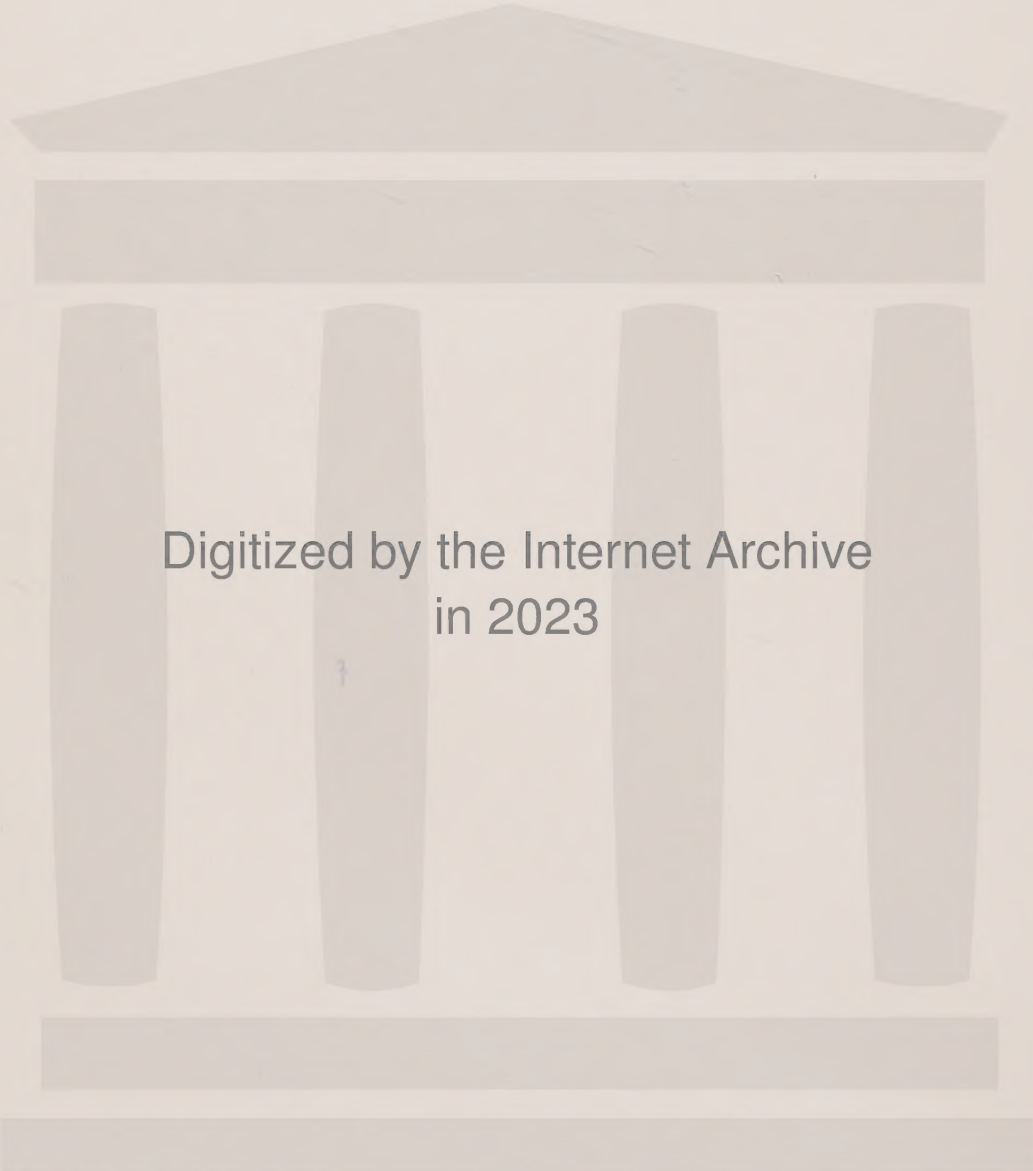


The Nutcracker Coloring Book

A STORYBOOK TO BE
COLORED IN



Retold
& Illustrated by
JANE KENDALL



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THE NUTCRACKER COLORING BOOK

A storybook to be colored in



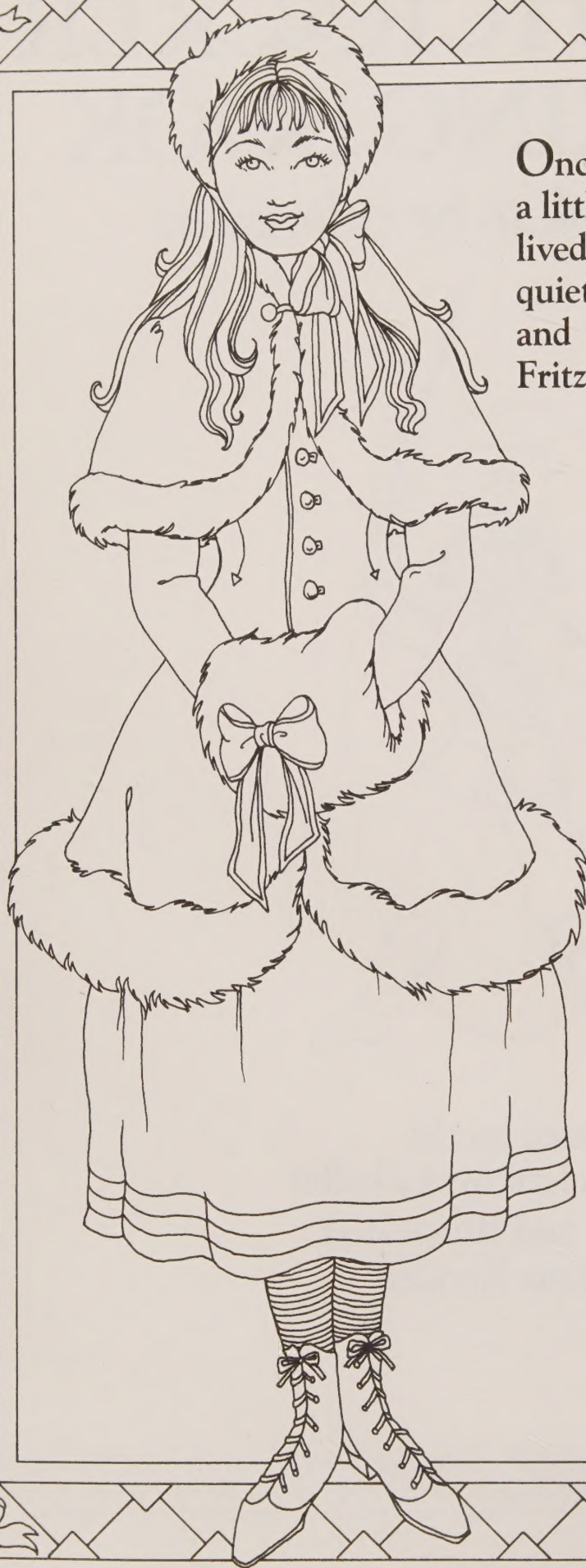
Based on the
classic Tchaikovsky ballet
Retold and Illustrated
By Jane Kendall

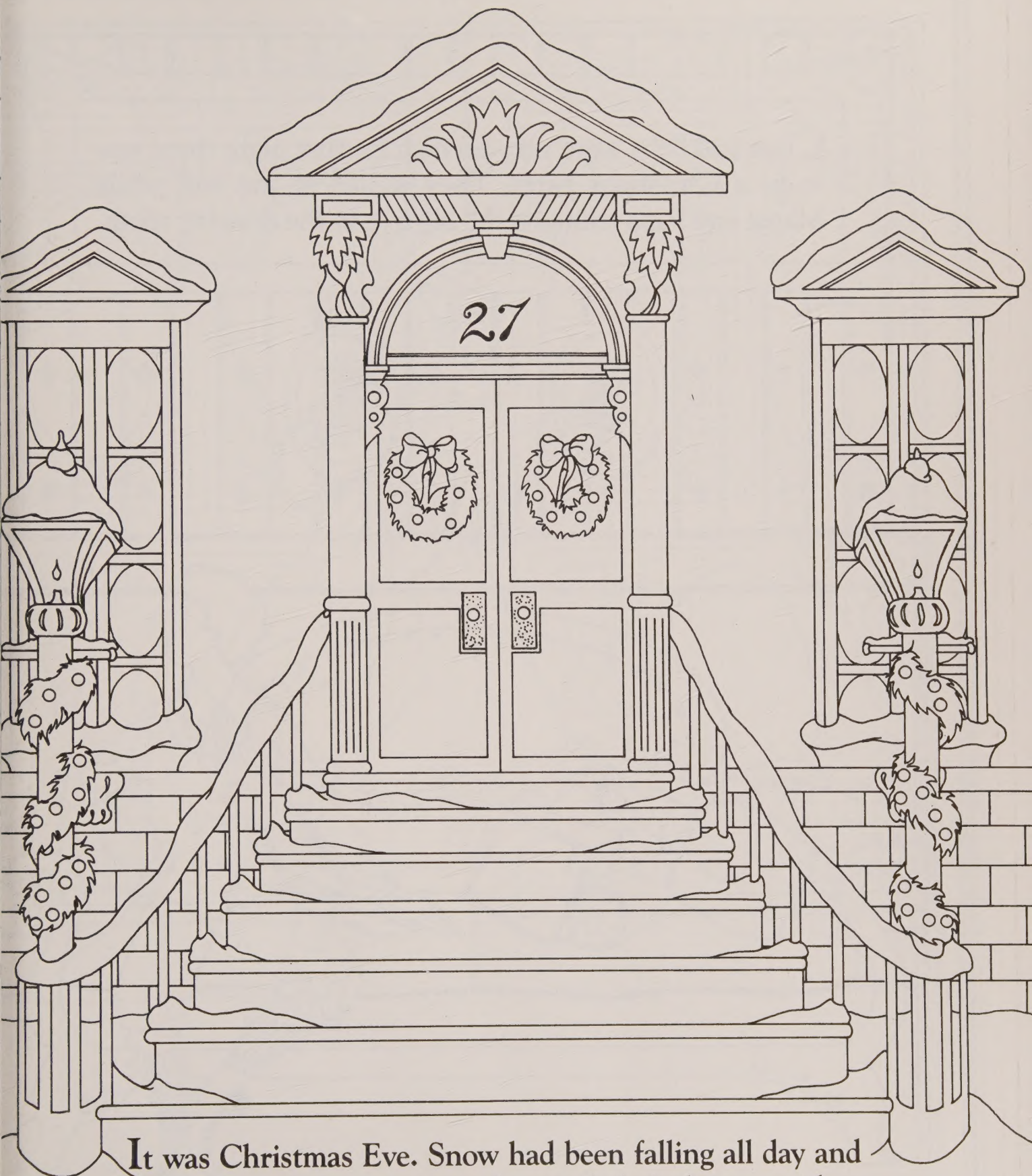
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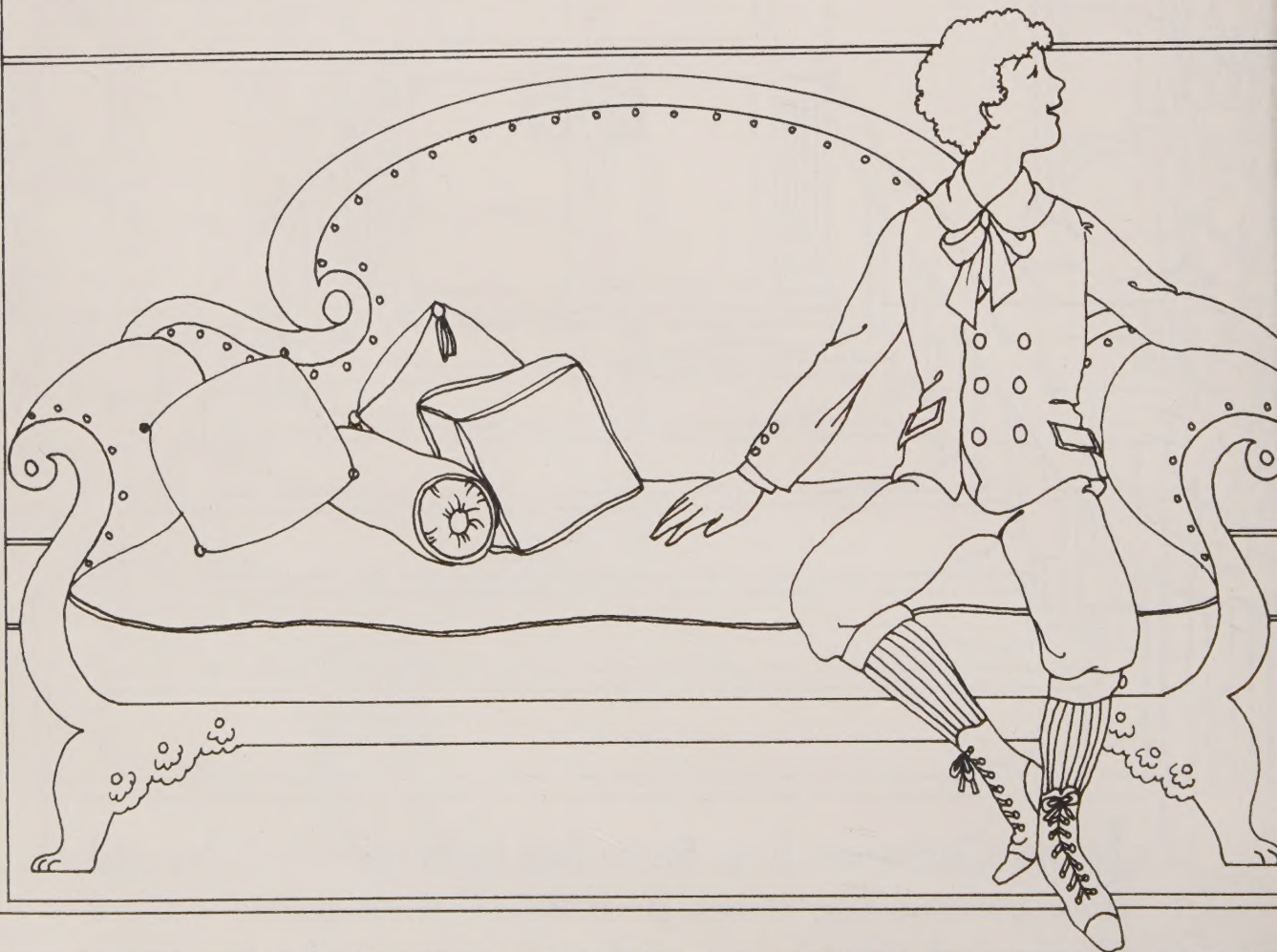
Once upon a time there was a little girl named Clara. She lived in an old house on a quiet street with her mother and father and her brother Fritz.

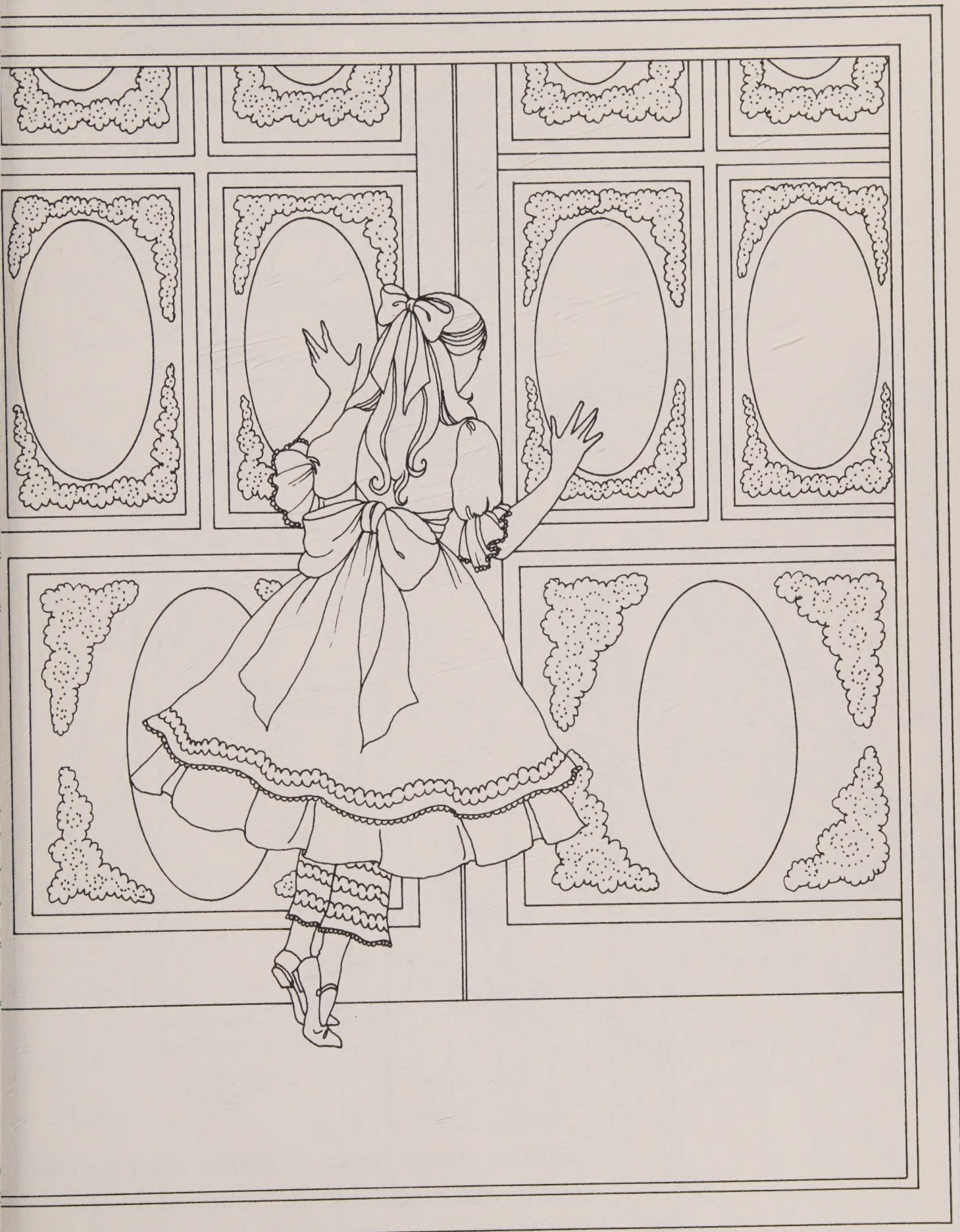




It was Christmas Eve. Snow had been falling all day and now covered the street in front of their house with a blanket of white that glittered in the light from the streetlamps.

Clara and Fritz were very excited, for that night there was to be a Christmas party. They waited in the hall while Mama and Papa trimmed the big tree in the drawing room.



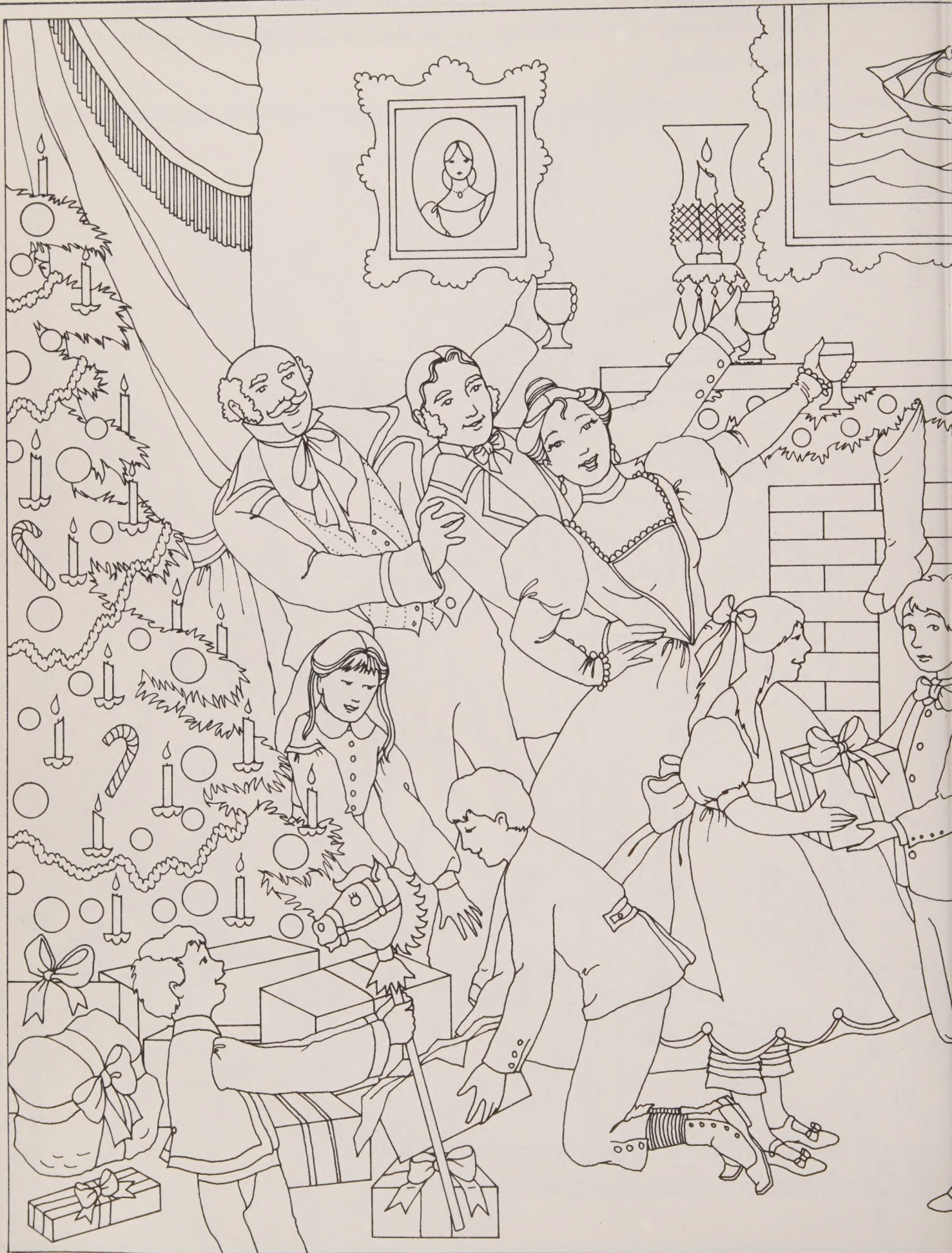




Soon the guests began to arrive. They carried presents and laughed as they climbed the snowy front steps.

When everyone was assembled in the hall, Mama and Papa opened the drawing-room doors so that the party could begin.





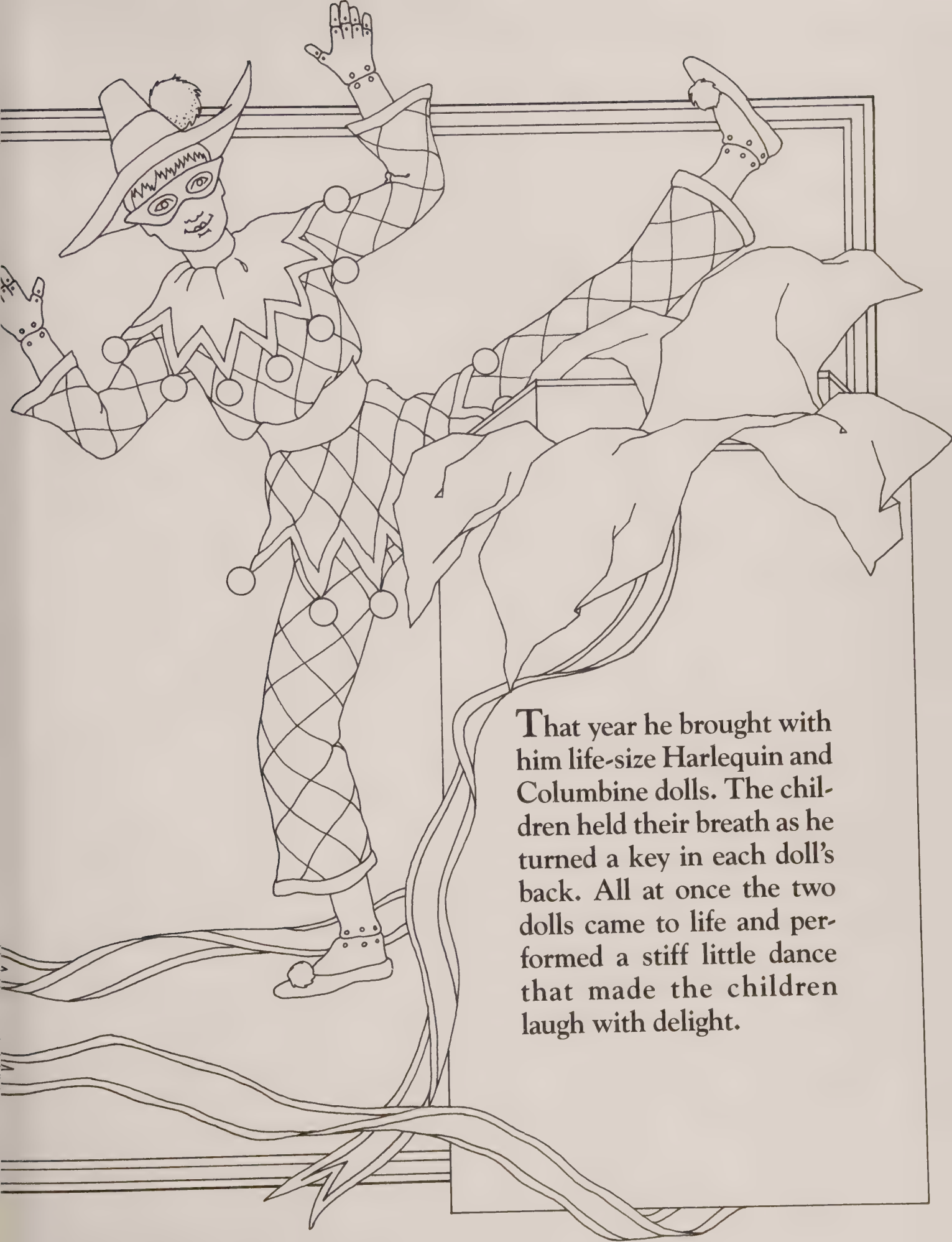


Suddenly Clara's uncle, the very mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, swept into the room. He was tall and thin, dressed all in black with a swirling cape and a silk top hat. Herr Drosselmeyer was a toy-maker by profession, and every year he brought something special to entertain the partygoers.









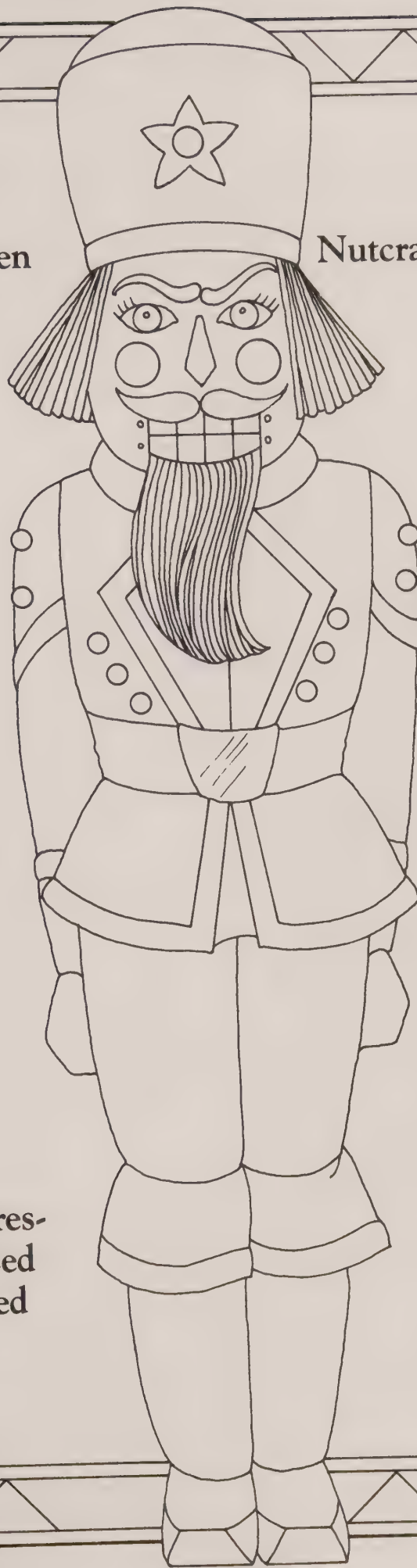
That year he brought with him life-size Harlequin and Columbine dolls. The children held their breath as he turned a key in each doll's back. All at once the two dolls came to life and performed a stiff little dance that made the children laugh with delight.

Herr Drosselmeyer brought a special present for Clara.



It was a wooden

Nutcracker doll!

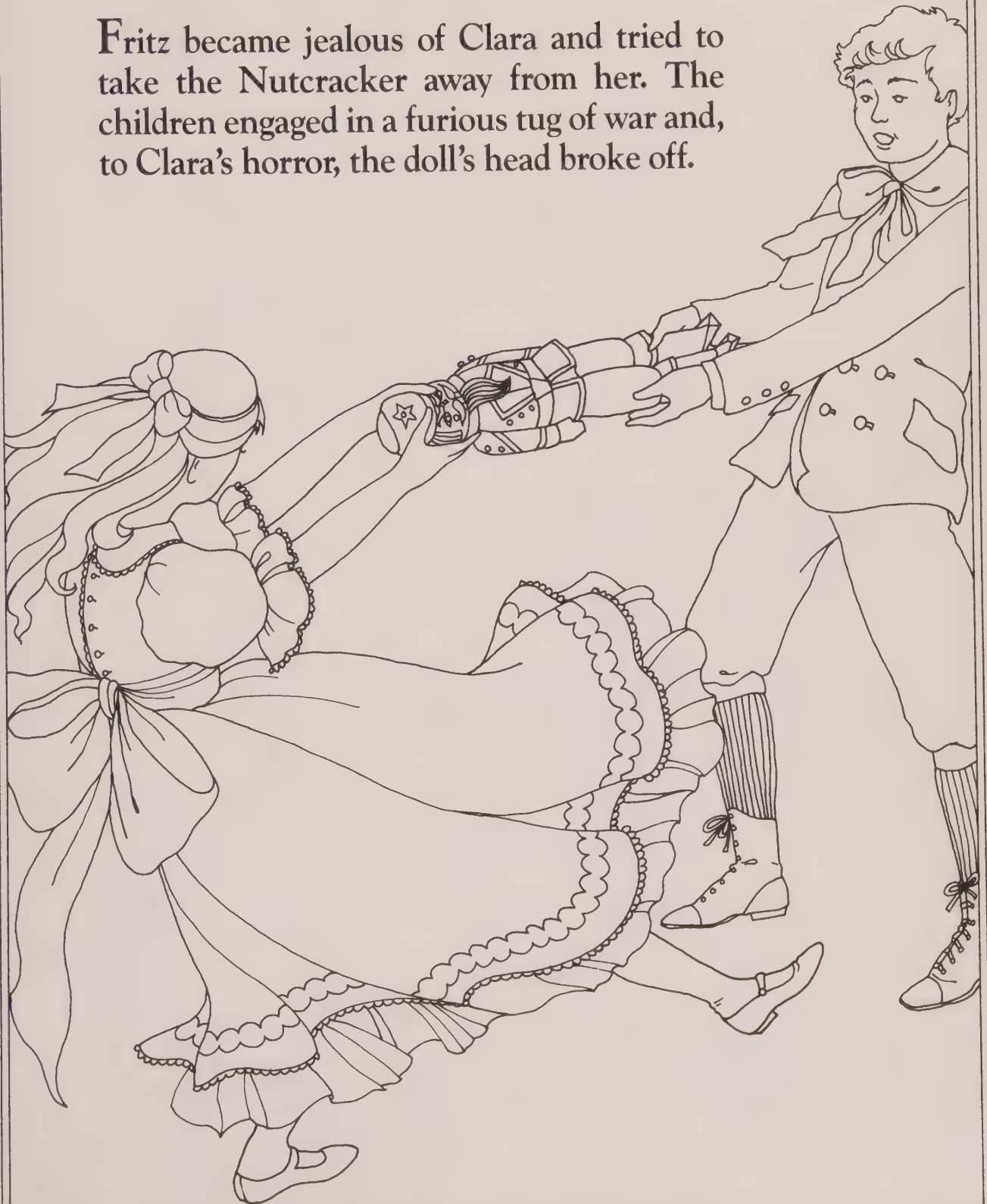


It had a fierce expression and was dressed in a brightly colored soldier's uniform with shiny boots and a tall hat.

Clara was delighted! She loved her Nutcracker and immediately ran to show it to her friends.



Fritz became jealous of Clara and tried to take the Nutcracker away from her. The children engaged in a furious tug of war and, to Clara's horror, the doll's head broke off.



But Herr Drosselmeyer was very clever, and he repaired the Nutcracker by tying his handkerchief around its neck.





It was getting late. Goodbyes were exchanged at the door, and the guests departed with one last toast to a happy Christmas.

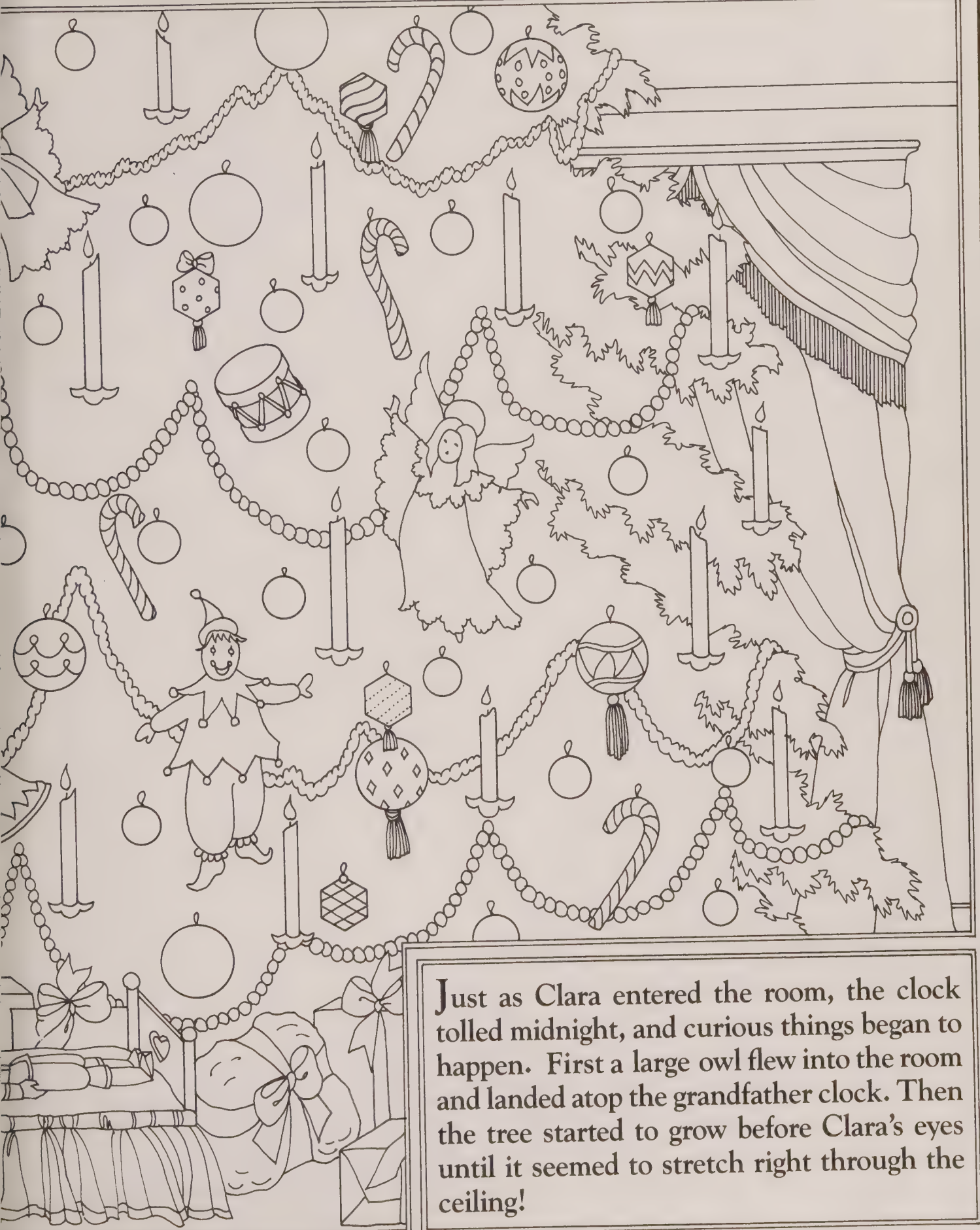
Clara tenderly placed the Nutcracker under the tree, and she and Fritz were led off to bed. It was long past their bedtime, and they were very sleepy indeed.





Clara did not sleep for long, however; she was awakened by strange noises coming from the drawing room. Lighting a candle, she tiptoed downstairs and crossed the moonlit hallway.





Just as Clara entered the room, the clock tolled midnight, and curious things began to happen. First a large owl flew into the room and landed atop the grandfather clock. Then the tree started to grow before Clara's eyes until it seemed to stretch right through the ceiling!

But most astonishing of all,
the Nutcracker transformed
into a proud warrior, the size
of a full-grown man!

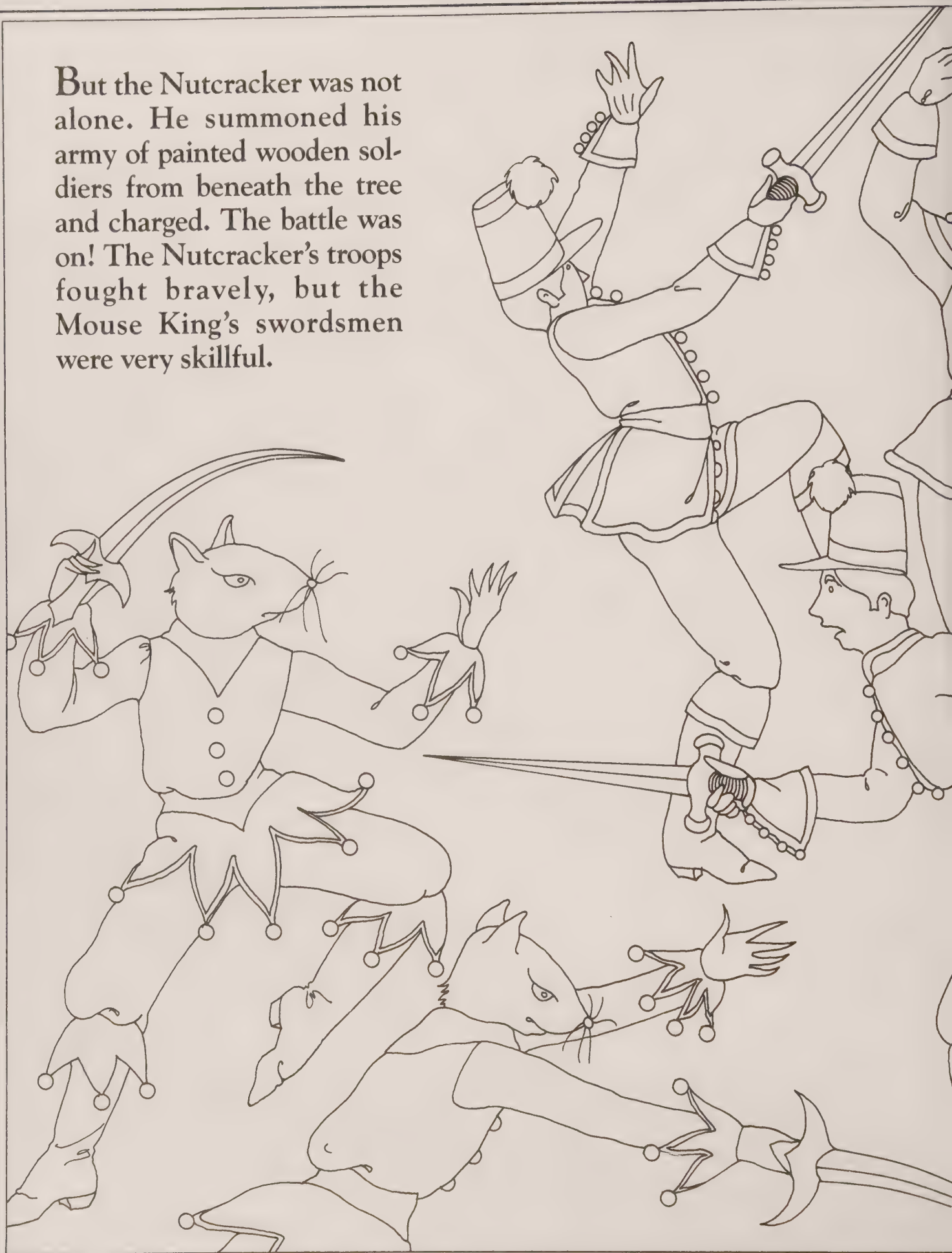


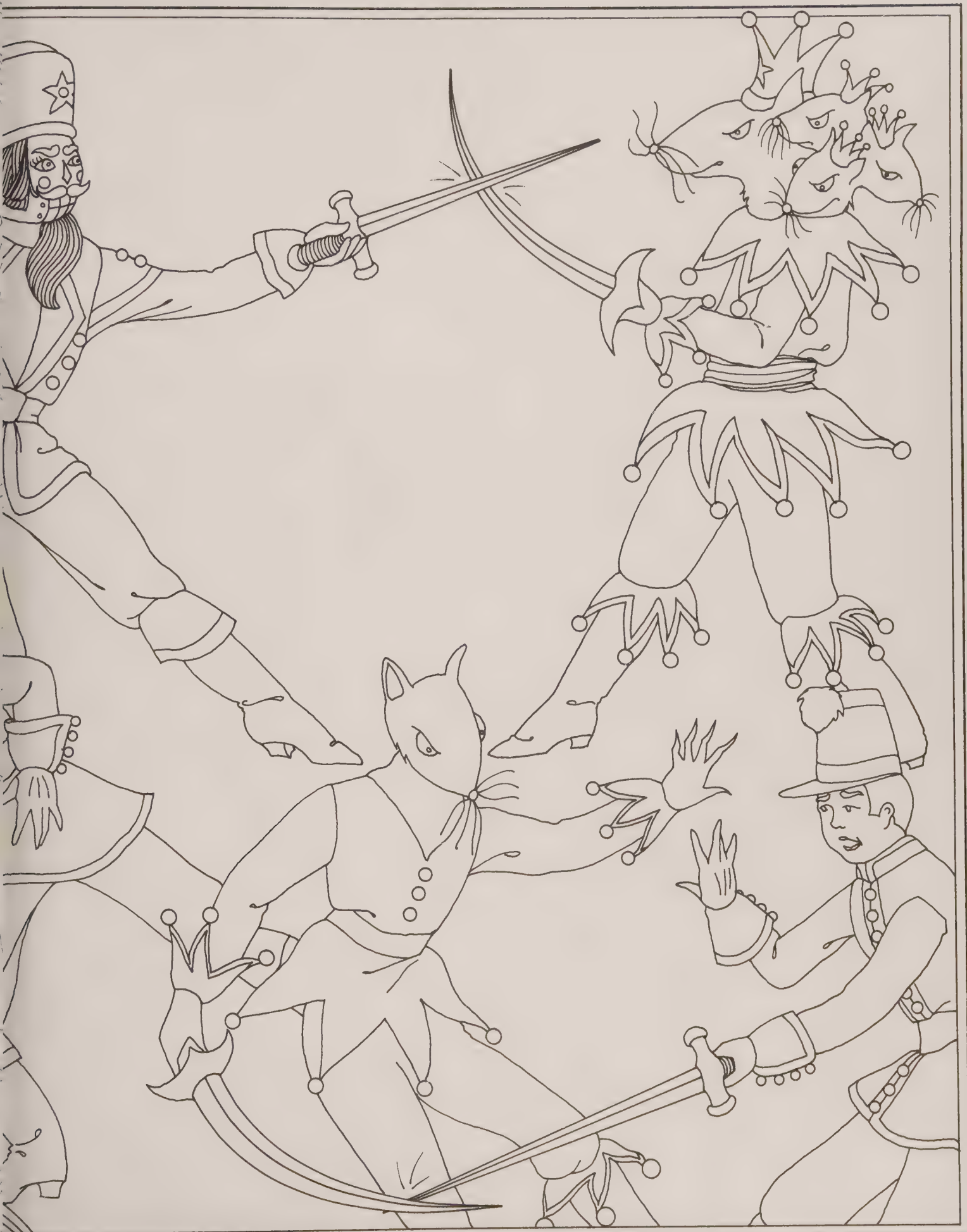
What strange things are
these? thought Clara. But there
were more surprises in store.



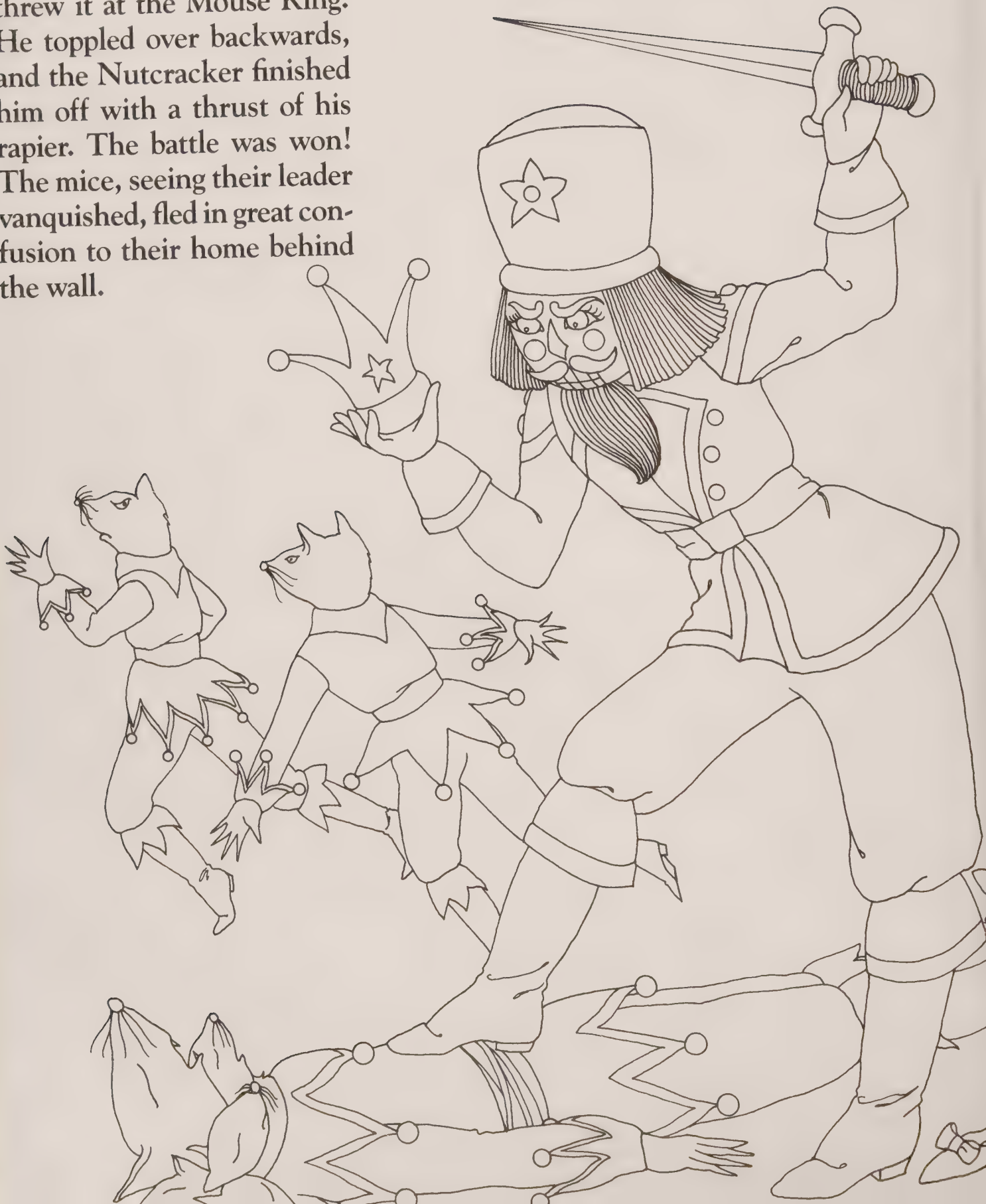
Suddenly the room was filled with huge, gray, squeaking mice. Each carried a wickedly curved sword in its sharp little paw. All at once, led by the evil Mouse King, they charged straight at the Nutcracker!

But the Nutcracker was not alone. He summoned his army of painted wooden soldiers from beneath the tree and charged. The battle was on! The Nutcracker's troops fought bravely, but the Mouse King's swordsmen were very skillful.





Just as the mice were gaining an advantage in the battle, Clara took off her slipper and threw it at the Mouse King. He toppled over backwards, and the Nutcracker finished him off with a thrust of his rapier. The battle was won! The mice, seeing their leader vanquished, fled in great confusion to their home behind the wall.



Clara had not realized that, in saving the Nutcracker, she had freed him from a spell. To her amazement, he changed into a handsome young prince. "Come with me," he said, offering her his hand with a smile. "We have a long way to go."



The Prince escorted Clara to his magic sleigh drawn by a team of reindeer with gilded horns. Soon they were soaring through the starry night, flying over tiny villages and snow-covered forests. They were going to the Prince's kingdom, the Land of the Sweets.



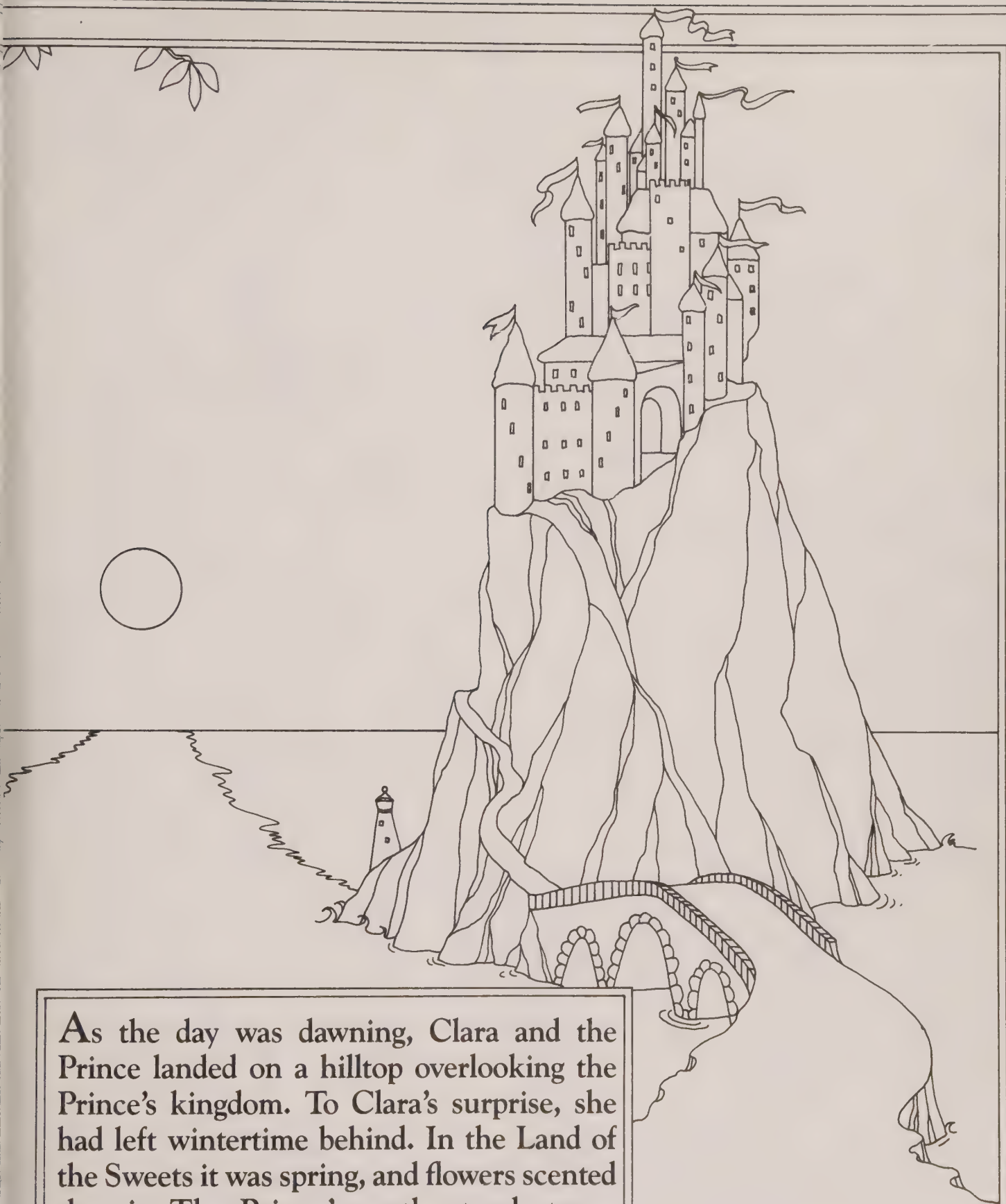


On the way, the Prince and Clara stopped to watch the Snow Maidens dance in the Enchanted Forest. How they sparkled in the moonlight!





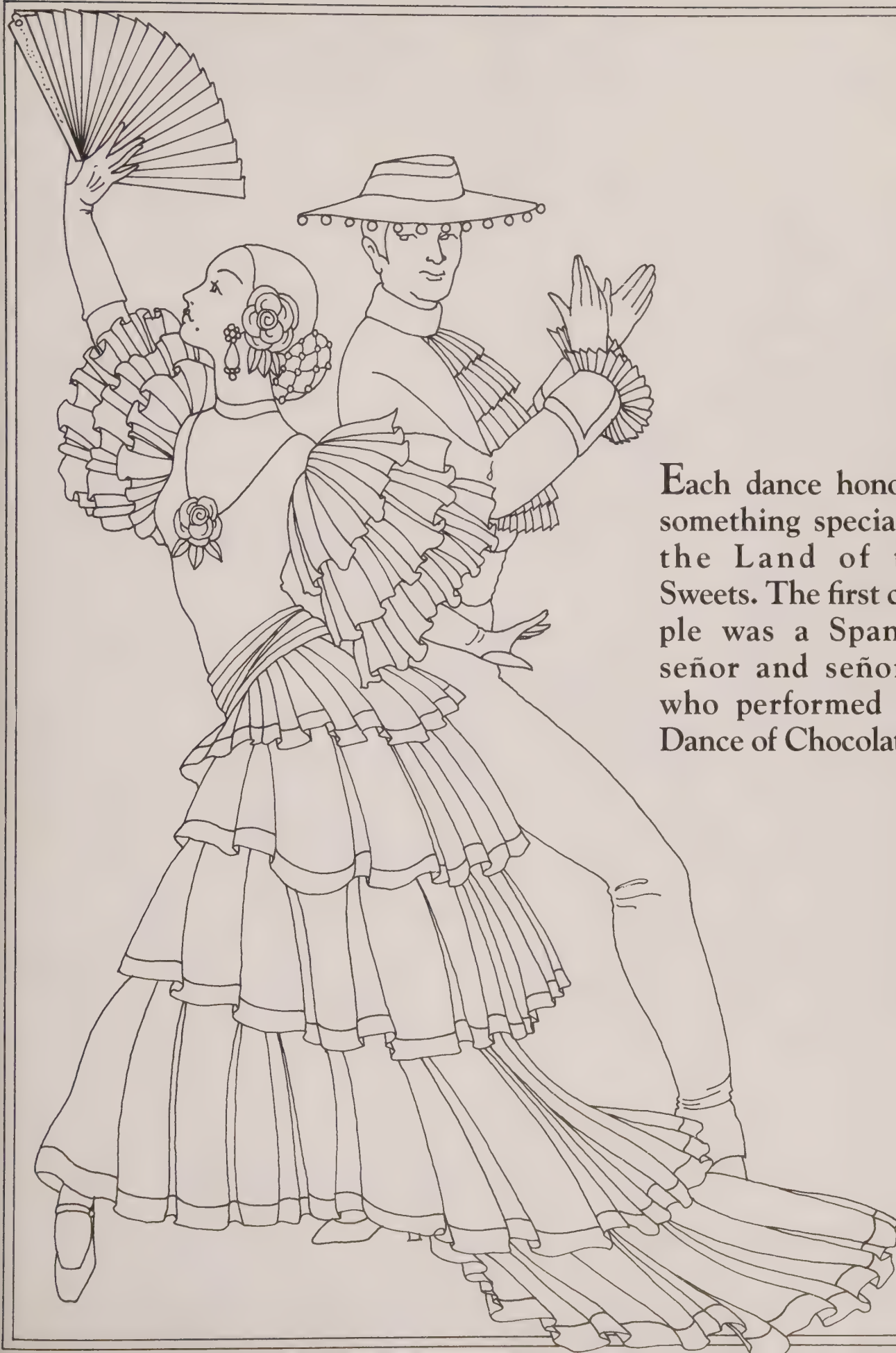




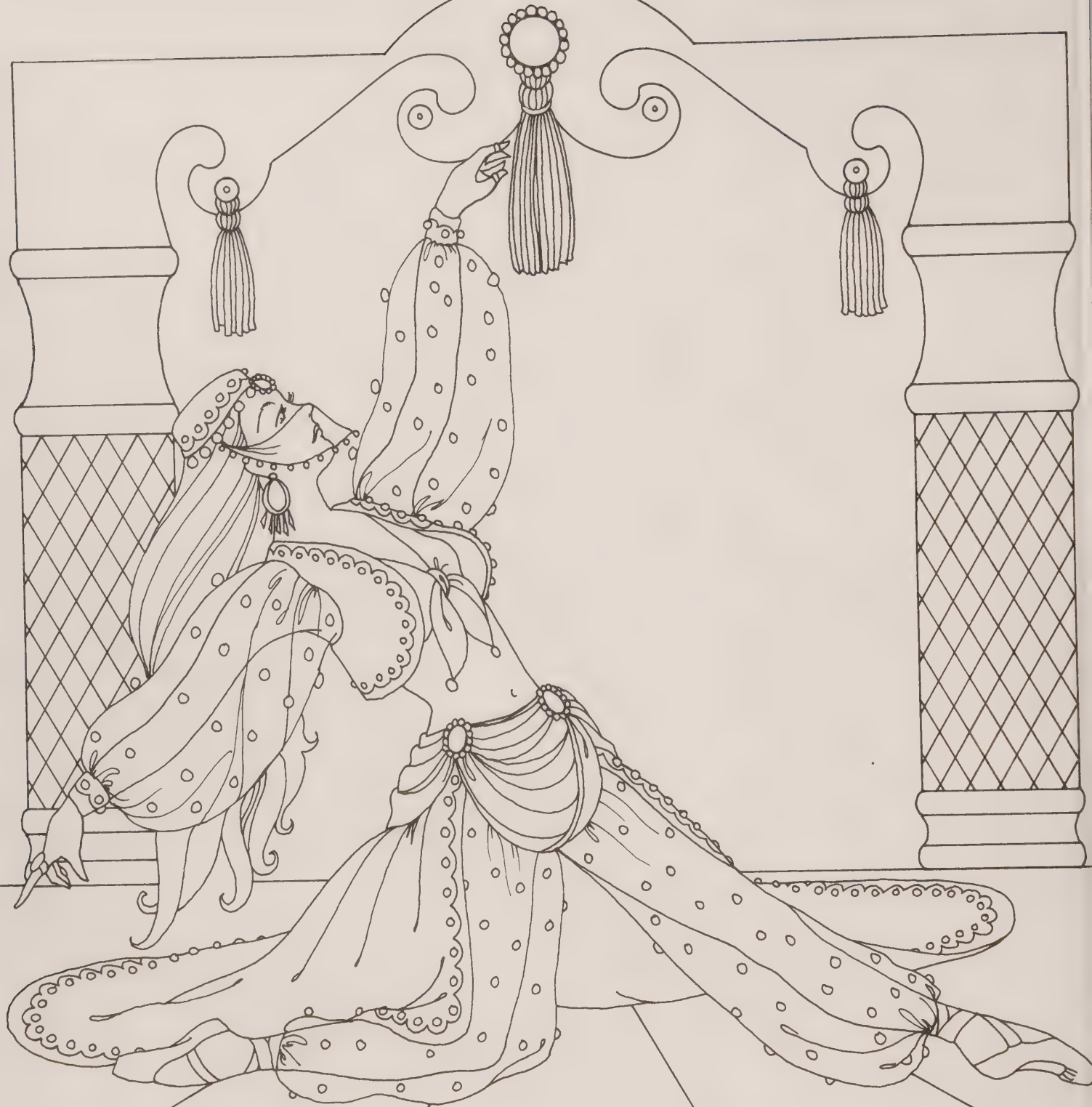
As the day was dawning, Clara and the Prince landed on a hilltop overlooking the Prince's kingdom. To Clara's surprise, she had left wintertime behind. In the Land of the Sweets it was spring, and flowers scented the air. The Prince's castle stood atop a mountain at the edge of the sea. Bright pennants fluttered from its many turrets in the morning breeze.



The Ladies-in-Waiting of the Court greeted Clara warmly and helped her dress for the festivities. Then the Prince led her to the throne in the Great Hall. Entertainment had been planned to celebrate the Prince's return, and the couple sipped hot chocolate from silver goblets and waited for the dances to begin.



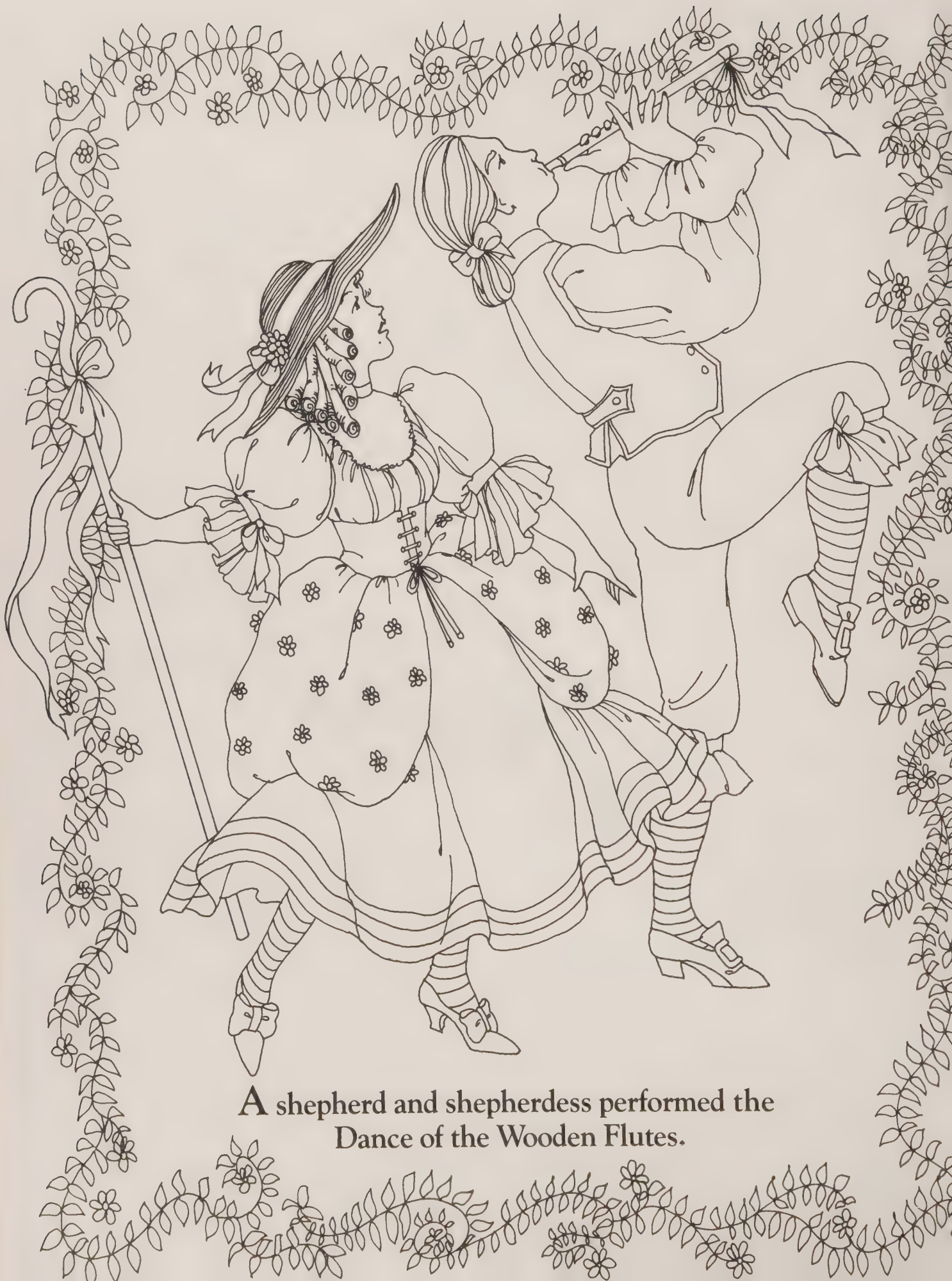
Each dance honored something special in the Land of the Sweets. The first couple was a Spanish señor and señorita who performed the Dance of Chocolates.



An Arabian dancer celebrated exotic coffees.



Three Russians performed a dance called the Trepak.

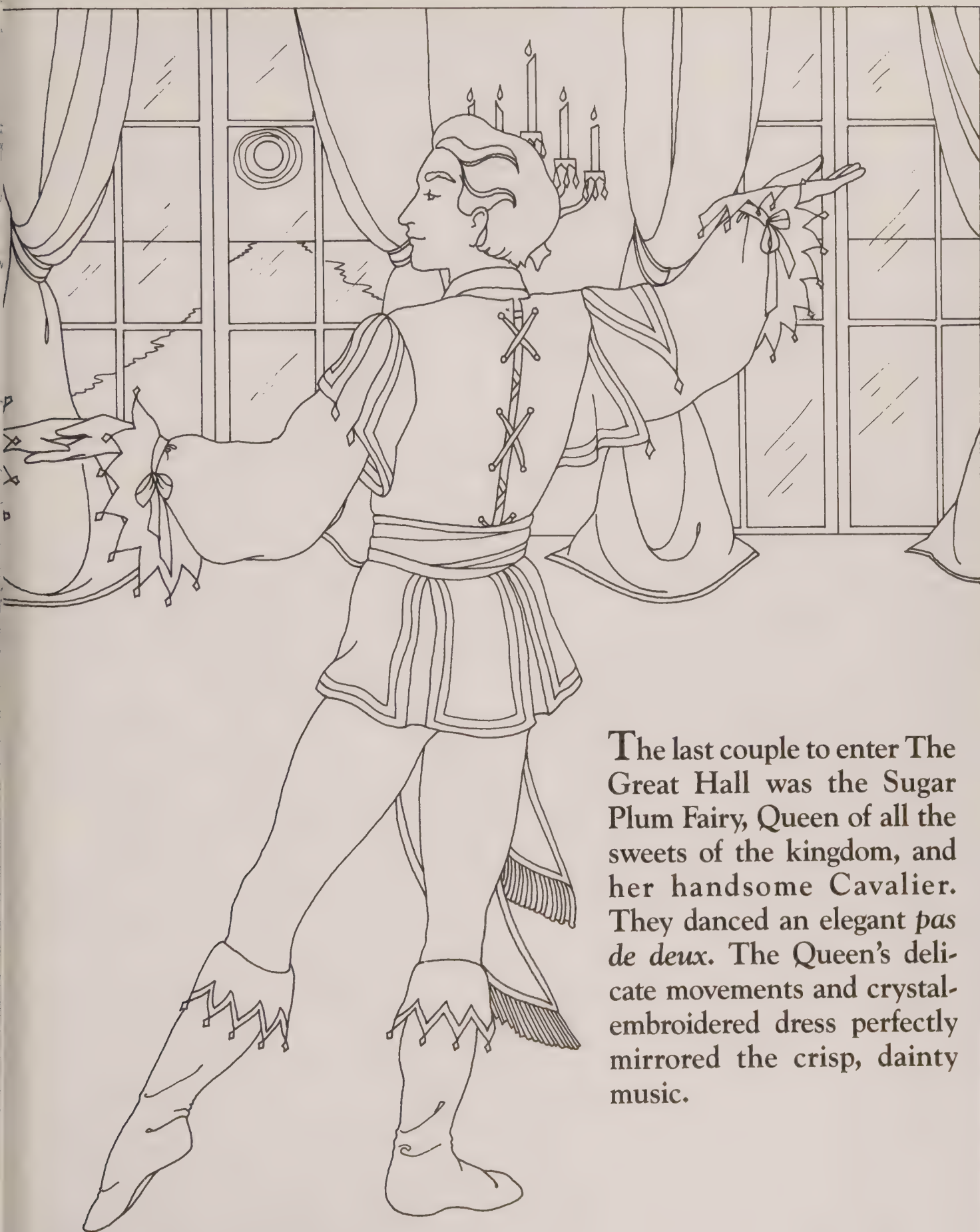


**A shepherd and shepherdess performed the
Dance of the Wooden Flutes.**



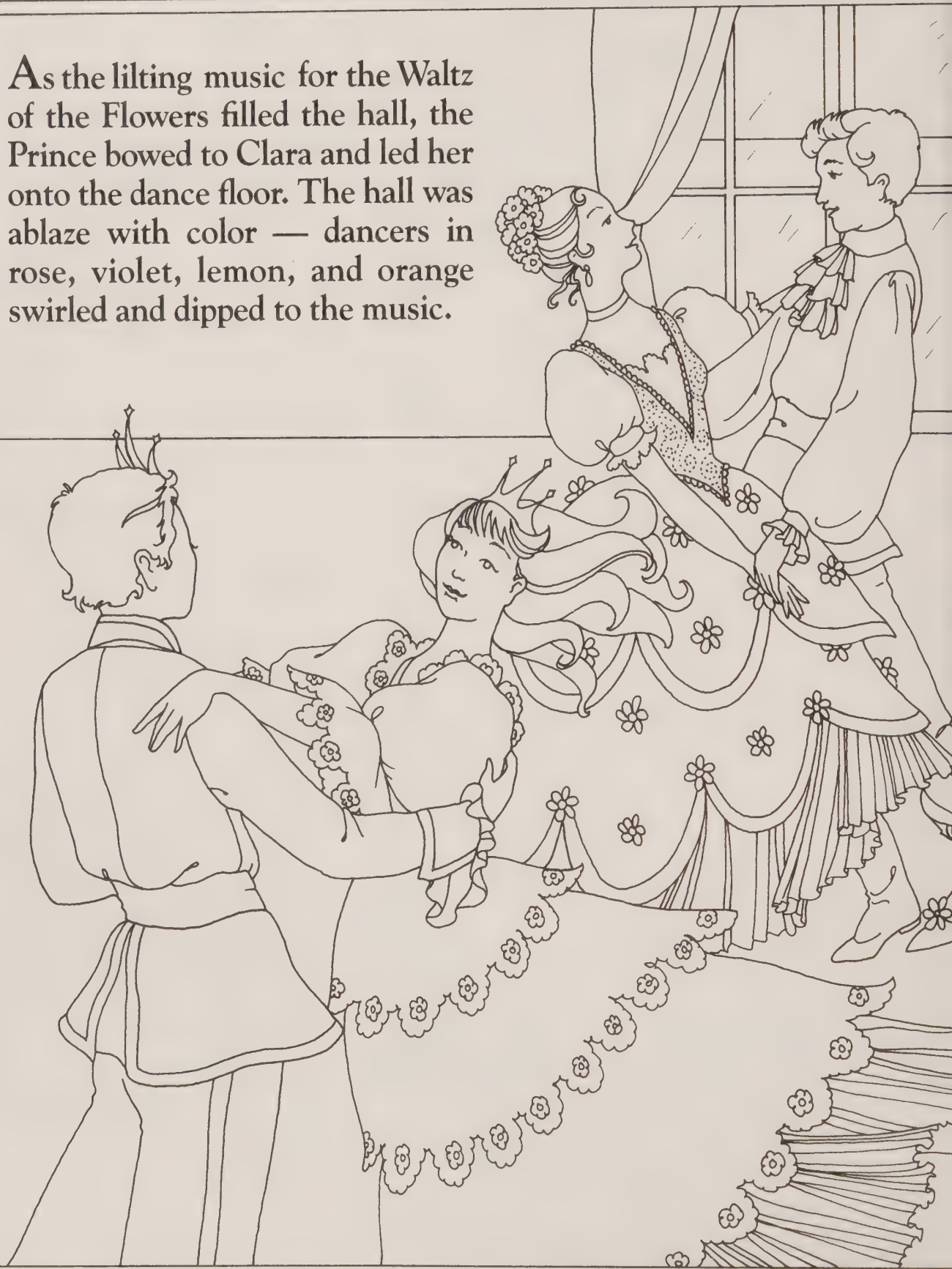
Two dolls danced a tribute to tea from China.





The last couple to enter The Great Hall was the Sugar Plum Fairy, Queen of all the sweets of the kingdom, and her handsome Cavalier. They danced an elegant *pas de deux*. The Queen's delicate movements and crystal-embroidered dress perfectly mirrored the crisp, dainty music.

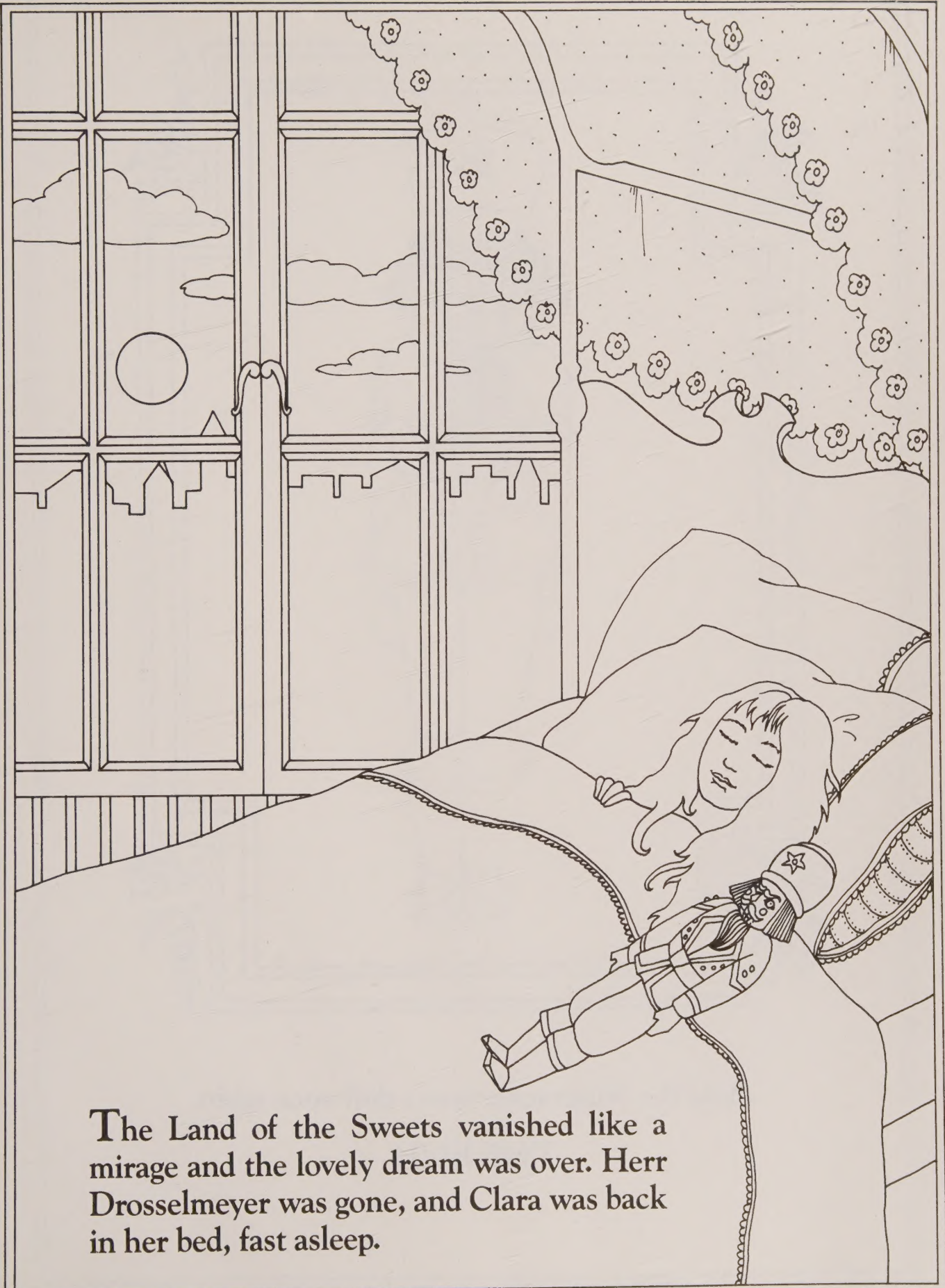
As the lilting music for the Waltz of the Flowers filled the hall, the Prince bowed to Clara and led her onto the dance floor. The hall was ablaze with color — dancers in rose, violet, lemon, and orange swirled and dipped to the music.



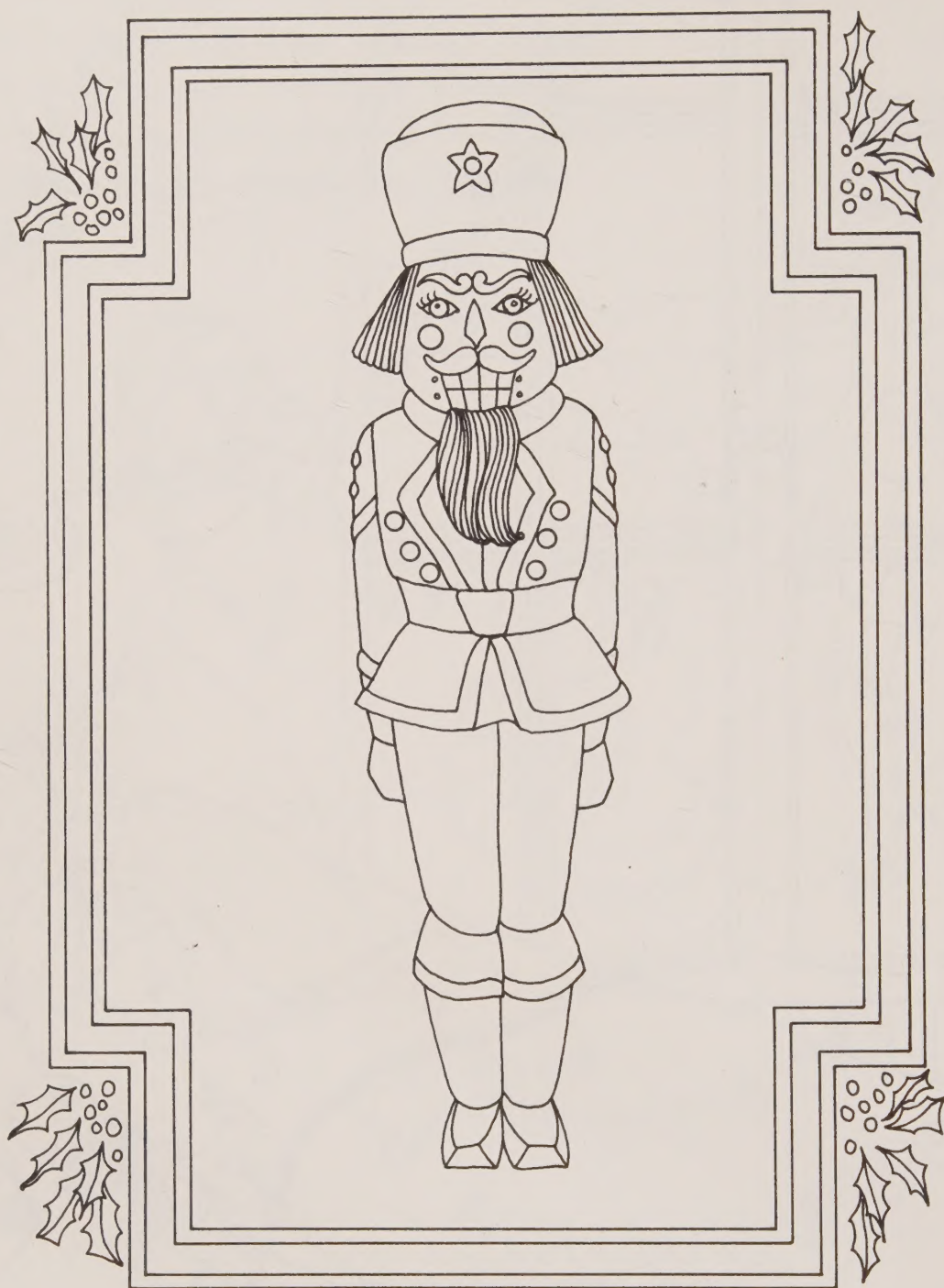


Clara so enjoyed the Waltz that she failed to see Herr Drosselmeyer appear amid the dancers. He beckoned to her. "Oh no!" she cried. "Is it time to go?" As Herr Drosselmeyer led her away Clara looked back to the Prince, who faded, dreamlike, into the bright sunlight.





The Land of the Sweets vanished like a mirage and the lovely dream was over. Herr Drosselmeyer was gone, and Clara was back in her bed, fast asleep.



And the Nutcracker was a doll once again.

THE END

\$2.95

The Nutcracker Coloring Book

A STORYBOOK TO BE COLORED IN

The story of Christmas-time's best-loved ballet, familiar to children the world over. With crayons in hand, children will follow Clara's fantastic dream of the Nutcracker doll come to life as a prince. Accompanied by a story based on the Tchaikovsky ballet,

the beautiful drawings to be colored-in evoke the graciousness of Christmases past. The exciting magic of a Christmas ball is interwoven with Clara's dream of a great ballroom in the Land of the Sweets, reached through an Enchanted Forest where sparkling Snow Maidens dance.

A must for both ballet fans and aspiring artists, *The Nutcracker Coloring Book* brings the brilliance of the live performance into each and every page.



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